

A HORRIBLE STORY.

How the American Immigration Laws Are Violated.

A UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER

Disguised as a Pauper Landed from the Servia—How Paupers Are Aided to this Country by European Societies—Fearful Scenes of Lust. The Crew of the Vessel Corrupt Young Immigrant Girls—A Story That will Cause Public Indignation.

New York Herald.

One of the most extraordinary attempts ever made by the United States government to fathom the mysterious, world-wide system under which the governments of Europe are pouring in hordes of paupers, imbeciles, criminals and other elements that are already weakening and blighting the social structure of the North American continent came to an unsuccessful end this morning, when Mr. Herman J. Schulteiss, one of the special commissioners sent abroad by the treasury department to scour Europe in search of facts, arrived among the steerage passengers of the Cunard steamship Servia disguised as a pauper, only to find that the immigration officials of New York, headed by Colonel Weber, the superintendent, had set their faces against such a serious attempt to expose the utter mockery of the present system of inspection.

When the facts ascertained by Commissioner Schulteiss in his wanderings through Europe disguised in the different national costumes become known there will be a wave of indignation throughout the country that will possibly make itself felt in every legislature and in every political organization that has any regard for the present or future of the country. The most vital facts will, of course, be incorporated in the report which he and his associates must privately make to the secretary of the treasury, after which there is no doubt the matter will be taken up by congress for some definite and stringent legislation. The most marvelous thing about the deliberate overthrowing of Mr. Schulteiss' efforts is that Colonel Weber, the superintendent of immigration, is chairman of the five commissioners who have just completed their work in Europe.

THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S WORK. Commissioner Schulteiss will lay the whole matter before the secretary of the treasury, and the labor organizations of the country, together with all other bodies who have been studying the situation with increasing alarm, will then make their sentiments known.

Commissioner Schulteiss disguised himself in Holland as a Dutch laborer, combed his hair down over his forehead, let his beard grow and wore wooden shoes, sleeping in emigrant houses where committees gathered destitute candidates for American workhouses, and worming himself into the secrets of the system. Whenever he made any open inquiries he found himself baffled at every turn.

When he went in disguise and actually underwent the experiences of the emigrants, he found the facts to be exactly opposite to those given to the public. He was driven to the most desperate expedients to avoid detection, and had actually in one country to change his disguise behind a cart in the street.

In Italy he donned a different costume, waxed his mustache and tramped out on the country roads until his hand was blistered carrying his dingy grip-sack, but he found everywhere traces of the vast army of agents who are wheedling, deluding, dazzling and seducing the credulous populations of the most ignorant sections of Italy, to the misery of the overcrowded Italian colonies of America, and for what?—simply to collect a commission on the steamship tickets sold.

Everywhere he found evidences that governments, committees, business houses, powerful steamship lines, railways in Europe and in America were all joined together in one vast secret combination, driving over the ocean whole populations, regardless of law and decency or of the result to the American Republic. This huge conspiracy was masked under a thousand disguises—philanthropy, colonization schemes, business ventures, political agitations, religious feuds.

A CONSPIRACY TO DECEIVE. At last they returned to England, and Commissioner Schulteiss resumed his series of secret trips through the slums of London, disguised in hob-nails and ragged clothes. At night he would steal out of the splendid corridors of the Hotel Victoria, and the porters, utterly unable to identify him, were mystified at the appearance of a tramp issuing from the hotel. His iron shod shoes gave him the shuffling gait of the class he sought to mingle with.

He sounded the heights and depths of poverty in its citadel, London. Every emigration society he visited was willing to aid paupers to America; there was no future for them in England. That was the common story. America was the country. Every influence was used to direct the stream to New York, and, where that failed, to Canada. For instance, Mr. Schulteiss went to Mr. Wilkins, the secretary of the London Society for the Prevention of Pauper Alien Emigration, and after relating a pathetic story about his poverty and his utter failure to support himself in England, that gentleman gave him a letter to another society entitling him to a free passage to New York.

CHARGES AGAINST CASTLE GARDEN. But there were mysterious hints dropped in London that the chairman of the commission had expressed his views on the subject in advance, and that being in a lucrative position at the head of the emigration bureau in New York, he would not and could not afford to make his investigation thorough and exhaustive, because it would show the sham of inspection kept up in the port of New York and reveal to the public the hypnotic influences of steamship and railroad companies, and so-called philanthropic committees, working always to get paupers and criminals out of their own country into some other.

When Commissioner Weber returned to New York Mr. Schulteiss, finding that the secrets of the European committee were so jealously guarded and so difficult of access, he determined to undergo the hardships of a voyage as a steerage passenger, and for that purpose applied to the Society for Assisting Friendless Foreigners in London for money to pay his passage to America. Here is a plain case. It is as clear as the sunlight. One instance is just as good as ten thousand, because it reveals the motives and methods of the organization. He told the representative of this British organization that he was unable to obtain work as he was not in

good health, and that he would have to go to a poorhouse. This last statement was exceedingly important and weighed more with the committee than any other fact, according to Mr. Schulteiss. He was referred, under a false name of course, and in disguise, to General John C. New, United States Consul General, for some recommendation. General New refused to give any indorsement to the supposed pauper. He did not believe his story. In the face of this the society contributed £125.00 (\$562) to the £50 necessary for the steerage passage on the Cunard steamship Servia. The clerks declared that hundreds upon hundreds of paperized Russian Jews were passed on from England to America upon the indorsement of their consuls.

The whole secret of Mr. Schulteiss' terrible trip in the Servia was discovered by a correspondent of the *Herald* who made the voyage as a cabin passenger. An arrangement was then made through which the correspondent repeatedly furnished the commissioner with food from the cabin, as he was hungry and unable to eat the meals served in the steerage.

Gradually the whole story took shape. Just a week before the Servia sailed, her sister ship, the Umbria, left Liverpool, carrying on board Commissioner Cross, one of Mr. Schulteiss' associates. Both Schulteiss and Powderly were present to see their colleagues off. The company knew that an emigration commissioner would be on board during the whole voyage, and very strict scrutiny was made of the emigrants as they passed up the gang plank. Mr. Schulteiss and Mr. Powderly, unknown to the company, carefully watched the proceedings from the deck. They saw, for instance, a Jewish woman with seven helpless children, some of them quite sickly, who had been forwarded from Russia, without money and without friends, turned back from the ship and put into a wagon.

Here was a good case. The company did not wish Mr. Cross to see this woman and her helpless brood. It would have been too serious a matter to have told the story too plainly. Mr. Powderly followed the wagon until it stopped in front of the Cunard company's emigrant boarding-house in Duke street, where the woman and her children were received.

For a whole week this family was supported at the expense of the Cunard company, and when Commissioner Schulteiss trudged himself on board the Servia with his dollar and a half overcoat which had been hanging in front of a second-hand shop for some months, and carrying his bed and tin dishes on his shoulder, the first sight that met his eyes was the Jewish woman and her brood huddling at the entrance to the steward's quarters. In a few minutes he was talking with her in German and kindly consented to examine her ticket, on which was printed the word Umbria, scratched, and the word Servia written in by one of the officials of the Cunard company.

HADES BELOW DECKS.

The first four days of the voyage were one long agony in the steerage. The weather was boisterous; the ship heaved and reeled. The air in the steerage quarters was vile beyond description. The floor and walls of the decks on the upper deck reeked with filth. Indescribable odors arose in different directions. In one place seventeen Russian Jews lay helpless and almost speechless in the agonies of seasickness. The Jewish mother and her children were tortured by the motion of the vessel. On all sides were men and women rolling in their own filth, but for three days no doctor appeared. There was a doctor on board the ship, of course. He wore a gold slashed uniform and was very popular among the cabin passengers. He was supposed to visit the immigrants at ten o'clock every morning, but morning after morning passed and no doctor appeared. Meanwhile all was wretchedness and squalor. Men who could not be affected by the motion of the boat became sick in the presence of so much foulness. The upper ventilating windows were kept securely fastened. Men and women tried to stagger up the long, steep flights of steps that lead up to the closets, and in many cases fell down again and abandoned themselves to the situation.

Sailors and under steward, firemen and stokers have free access to the women quarters. They came in under the plea of nursing the poor wretches and ended by embracing them. There seemed to be no officer whose duty it was to prevent these things, or if there was he failed to do his duty. In one case Commissioner Schulteiss saw a brutal employe of the ship lustfully caressing an emigrant girl in the actual throes of seasickness and unable to resist.

HELPLESS EMIGRANT GIRLHOOD.

The intimacy of the employes of the ship with the helpless emigrant girls grew hour by hour. One fireman or stoker actually boasted to Commissioner Schulteiss of his conquest over a sick girl, describing to him how his victim watched him every moment while he was nursing her. Often the poor creatures paid for a few mouthfuls of palatable food carried from the employes' table by submitting to the most shameful caresses. There seemed to be no safeguard for virtue, no pity for innocence. At night carnality reigned on the steerage deck. The commissioner saw sailors and stokers and firemen dancing for hours with emigrant girls against the rules of the vessel and then embracing them in dark corners, lying on the decks with them under the cover of their blankets and crawling into dark corners and shadowy rooms over the boilers.

THE CORRESPONDENT'S OBSERVATION. Three nights in succession the *Herald* correspondent walked about among the steerage passengers, and Commissioner Schulteiss directed his attention to the employes of the boat hugging the emigrant girls and kissing them. Here and there men and women were sheltered by the same shawl, often lying upon the deck together. The stokers and firemen seemed to work into each other's hands and shouted out "tips" to each other on different girls. One knot of employes actually stood by the commissioner and his companion, with their elbows touching, and discussed in loud voices their attempts upon the virtue of the female passengers and complaining of the successes of other employes. While this conversation was going on the commissioner called attention to the fact that one of the crew who had been conspicuous by his lustful attentions to the emigrant girls was taking one of them into the quarters where his own room was located. But this was not all the commissioner discovered. Great numbers of the Russian Jews were traveling on prepaid tickets. Many of them were utterly destitute. He associated with them until they gradually took him to be a Jew himself. Being a linguist he acted as interpreter for them and gradually learned that the money for their passage had been supplied by committees in Europe, and one man with a family of four declared that his passage was prepaid by a New York committee. As Mr. Schulteiss told them he was an assisted pauper himself, he found no

difficulty in getting at the facts, but saw their tickets and saw that the word "Prepaid" was stamped across them. He called the attention of a *Herald* correspondent to a printed paper (apparently a ticket) in the hands of one of the Jewish emigrants, across which was stamped in large blue letters the word "Prepaid."

It was only a few days before that Lord Rothschild had declared to the same correspondent in London that not one penny had been spent, was being spent or would be spent to send paupers to the United States, and the Chief Rabbi Adler assured him in writing that Baron Hirsch's desire was to send the destitute emigrants to Canada and the Argentine Republic, but here they were in the steerage bound for New York, and the ship's employes said that they had been coming in great multitudes week after week, one steady, uninterrupted stream that was broadened and quickened by the organized efforts of committees and societies. The emigrants with prepaid tickets seemed to have been coached as to the danger of allowing the fact that they were assisted paupers to be known to the American authorities, for they displayed great caution in showing the evidence.

JOSEPH THOMPSON'S TESTIMONY.

Among the steerage passengers on the Servia was Joseph Thompson, an English sanitary engineer, making his initial trip to the United States. His professional interest was aroused early in the voyage by the poor arrangement of the Servia's steerage accommodations, which he unhesitatingly asserts are in gross violation of even the fundamental principles of sanitary law.

Engineer Thompson made a careful study of the Servia's steerage, its passengers, the alleged food supplied them and the supreme indifference shown to their health and comfort by the officers of the ship. He says the results of his investigations show that the Servia's cargo of immigrant humanity made its voyage across the Atlantic very much as do cattle, herded in pens and permitted to wallow in filth.

Mr. Thompson spent his first night on shore at the house of a Brooklyn friend, where he gave me the full particulars of the investigations on board the Servia.

"Nothing can exceed," said he, "the bestial and unhealthy conditions prevailing in the Servia's steerage. In the first place a large percentage of its passengers were of the worst Russian variety. These men, women and children were brutally animal in their habits, unspeakably filthy and altogether unfit for association, within the narrow limits of a steerage, with civilized people."

"Yet these depraved creatures were put under no special restraint by the officers of the ship and the decent passengers were forced to herd with them. That, in itself, was a fearful cruelty, practised upon intelligent, cleanly men and their families, forced by economic reasons to take steerage passage."

"The food supplied the emigrants was abominable to a degree and seriously unhealthy. Anything is good enough for the steerage was the watchword of the ship, and as a result the disease-fearing intelligent passengers deserted the common table and spent their scant funds in purchasing eatable food from the steward. I knew one steerage passenger, a man of intelligence, who during the entire trip never drank but one glass of water nor ate but once at the common table. Yet he was distressingly poor, and the little money he was forced to expend in extras on the trip led by his arrival in New York with only a few pennies in his pocket. The bread was white and sour with alum, the meats were bits of refuse, and the so-called meals were served very much as the food of pigs is dumped unceremoniously into the trough."

A DARK MORAL PICTURE.

The moral side of the Servia's steerage picture was about as bad as its sanitary shortcomings.

Firemen, stokers and steward's assistants were engaged from end to end of the voyage in a prolonged bacchanalian revel with the young female emigrants. At night every dark corner of the deck had its individual scene of gross immorality, and below decks things were very much in the same condition. Every little room and pantry unoccupied by a permanent tenant was used by the sailors and women for brazen indecencies which were patent to all the steerage passengers.

There was little if any attempt at concealment among the parties to these immoralities, but the ship's officers were absolutely indifferent and decent passengers were forced, in order to avoid the fearful doings of the deck, to spend their evenings in the foul air of the steerage.

"To what I have already said, however, let me add my protest as a professional sanitary engineer against death breeding conditions such as exist on that ship; also my protest as a gentleman against the gross immorality which disgraced the Servia's steerage."

AN IMPORTANT POINT.

The most significant and startling part of the story above related is in the fact that when Commissioner Schulteiss reached New York and made himself known to Colonel Weber, superintendent of immigration for the port of New York, that official, instead of entering on the investigation with the zeal of a detective, coolly upset the whole enterprise, let loose the immigrants, snapped his fingers at his associate commissioner and told him he knew his own business.

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It is a mistake to consider Catarrh merely a local trouble. It is unquestionably a disease of the blood, and therefore the right way to cure Catarrh is to remove from the blood the impurities which cause and feed it. This is to be done by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, the great blood purifier, which effectually expels all traces of poison and germs of disease.

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"For years I have been troubled with that terrible disagreeable disease, Catarrh. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla with the very best results. It cured me of that continual dropping in my throat, and stuffed-up feeling." Mrs. S. D. HEATH, Putnam, Conn.

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SALE OF VALUABLE CITY PROPERTY. I will sell at private sale the following property belonging to the estate of Robert Campbell, deceased, to-wit: The Robert Campbell home, No. 11 South Penn street; the property occupied by Mr. J. R. Niles, corner of South Penn and Zane streets; the west half of lot 45 in D. Zane's addition on the north side of Virginia street, occupied by R. H. Rutz, druggist, and other tenants; house No. 25 on east side of South Penn street, occupied by Mr. Samuel Uhl; house No. 23 on same street, occupied by Mr. Charles J. Wells; and house No. 20 on same street, occupied by Mr. John P. Smith. For prices and terms apply at the office of Caldwell & Caldwell, attorneys-at-law, over German Bank, Wheeling, W. Va. ALFRED CALDWELL, Administrator. 1018

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TRUSTEE'S SALE.

By virtue of a deed of trust made by John E. Robinson and Elizabeth Robinson, his wife, to me as trustee, dated the 21st day of January, A. D. 1890, and of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Ohio county, in Book of Trust Deeds, No. 23, page 585, I will sell at public auction at the north front door of the Court House of said county, in the city of Wheeling, on

TUESDAY, THE 17th DAY OF DECEMBER,

A. D. 1891, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m., the following described premises to-wit: The one-fourth part of lot No. 43, in that part of the city of Wheeling called Centre Wheeling, beginning at the south corner of said lot, corner to the north line of lot No. 44, thence running in a westerly direction along the north line of Twenty-sixth street sixty-one (61) feet, the one-half length of said lot; thence at a right angle the westerly direction twenty-five (25) feet, the one-half width of said lot; thence at right angles in an easterly direction along the right line of said lot sixty-one (61) feet to the west line of Clarendon street; thence at a right angle in a southerly direction along the west side of Clarendon street to the place of beginning.

TERMS OF SALE—One-third cash and as much more as the purchaser may desire to pay in cash on the day of sale, the balance in two equal installments payable in six and twelve months from the date of sale, notes bearing interest to be given for the deferred payments and secured by a deed to be secured according to law and the satisfaction of the trustee.

T. J. HUGES, Trustee. 1020

W. H. HALTER, Auctioneer.

LEGAL NOTICES.

THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF OHIO COUNTY WEST.

Daniel W. Harrison vs. The Fraternity of Financial Co-operation.

The object of this suit is to recover by decree of the above named court the sum of \$1,001, with interest thereon from the 27th day of June, 1891, until payment, for money fraudulently obtained by the defendant from sundry persons named in an exhibit of the bill filed in this cause, who are signors of the promissory notes of the defendant in local Division No. 28 of said County in the City of Cleveland, in the State of Ohio, and also to recover the costs of this suit; and to subject to the payment of said sum of money to the plaintiff, interest and costs, money due the plaintiff from the custody of the Exchange Bank of Wheeling, which have been attached under order of attachment issued by the court, and appearing from an affidavit filed in said cause as true and correct. This order of publication is entered against it and it is ordered that the said defendant do appear within one month after the first publication of this order and answer to the complaint and its interests; it is further ordered that this order be